

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 ARAE-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01
COME-00 FRB-03 /076 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9426

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0830

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BF
SUBJ: FNM LEADER VOICES CONCERN ABOUT OPPOSITION PARTY
ARTICLE

REF: NASSAU 0823

1. CECIL WALLACE-WHITFIELD LEADER OF OPPOSITION FNM AND
COTENANT WITH THE EMBASSY OF THE CHANCERY BUILDING CALLED
THIS MORNING TO ASK FOR APPOINTMENT AT SAME TIME QUERYING
WHETHER I HAD READ YESTERDAY'S NASSAU HERALD THE PLP'S
BI-WEEKLY PROPAGANDA SHEET. TOLD THAT I HAD NOT HE SAID
HE WOULD XEROX A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE FOR MY PERUSAL AND BE
DOWNSTAIRS IN A FEW MINUTES.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE HEADLINED "AMERICAN REPORT
WARNS: FNM VICTORY WILL DAMAGE U.S. RELATIONS."

"THE HEAD OF AN INTERNATIONAL BANKING GROUP AND THE DIRECTOR
OF A GIANT AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SAID IN
WASHINGTON THIS WEEK THAT AN FNM GOVERNMENT IN THE BAHAMAS
WOULD BE 'NOTHING SHORT OF DISASTROUS' FOR BAHAMIAN-U.S.
RELATIONS.'

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ZAND A REPORT ISSUED BY THE NORTHEAST BANKING TRUST DECLARED
THAT AN FNM VICTORY WOULD FRIGHTEN INVESTMENT CAPITAL FROM
THE COUNTRY FOR AT LEAST A DECADE AND 'PROBABLY RESULT IN A
PERMANENT SETBACK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BAHAMAS.'

"THE REPORT REFERS AT LENGTH TO THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL
ELECTION.

"IT CONCLUDES THAT 'BY FAR THE MOST STABLE COURSE FOR THIS NEIGHBOURING ISLAND ARCHIPELAGO WOULD BE TO RETAIN THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION OF PRIME MINISTER LYNDEN PINDLING, WHICH HAS RECENTLY UNDERGONE AN EFFECTIVE, IF OVERDUE, CLEAN-UP.'

"THE WASHINGTON REPORT CONTINUES:

"'AS THE MAN WHO LED THE BAHAMAS INTO INDEPENDENCE, MR. PINDLING IS ONE OF THE MOST RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL LEADERS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. HE IS A LEADER THAT AMERICANS HAVE LEARNED TO TRUST.

"'THE ONLY EFFECTIVE BLACK OPPOSITION FACED BY THE GOVERNMENT PLP IS THE FREE NATIONAL MOVEMENT - A PARTY WHICH HAS A RATHER QUESTIONABLE REPUTATION FOR STRONG-ARM TACTICS INSTABILITY AND A DISTURBING ABSENCE OF LEADERSHIP MATERIAL.

"'THE FNM IS VIRTUALLY A ONE-MAN PARTY, COMMANDED BY ATTORNEY CECIL WALLACE-WHITFIELD, WHO WAS RECENTLY DENOUNCED BY MANY OF HIS CLOSEST POLITICAL COLLEAGUES AS A 'DICTATOR.'

THIS PARTY IS COMPOSED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF UNKNOWN, UNTESTED AND IMMATURE MEN WHO SEEM TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY A SINGLE STANDARD: UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE TO MR. WHITFIELD.'

"THIS AMERICAN DOCUMENT SHOULD SERVE AS A GRIM WARNING TO BAHAMIANS WHO ARE RECKLESS ENOUGH TO BE CONSIDERING THE FREE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AS AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT.
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"WE CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE A CHANCE WITH A PARTY THAT IS REGARDED AS 'DANGEROUS' BY OUR GREAT FRIEND AND ALLY - THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

3. I ASSURED WHITFIELD THAT UNNAMED "HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL BANKING GROUP" AND "DIRECTOR OF GIANT AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION" WAS (WERE?) QUITE OBVIOUSLY SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF OR THEMSELVES AS AN INDIVIDUAL (OR INDIVIDUALS) AS WAS THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE NORTHEAST BANKING TRUST" WITH WHICH I WAS PERSONALLY UNFAMILIAR AND THAT VARIOUS STATEMENTS NEITHER PURPORTED TO HAVE NOR IN FACT DO HAVE THE SANCTION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THIS EMBASSY OR ANY OFFICIAL CON-

NECTED THEREWITH. I WENT ON TO COMPARE STATEMENT WITH STATEMENTS MADE PRIOR TO LAST NOVEMBER'S ELECTION IN THE UNITED STATES BY BAHAMIAN CITIZENS SUCH AS HIS FORMER FRIEND AND PRESENT NEMESIS, LOCAL TRIBUNE PUBLISHER, SIR ETIENE DUPUCH. (SIR ETIENE WRITING IN THE TRIBUNE REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR

AMERICAN CITIZENS TO REJECT PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE POLLS AS TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD "SPEED OUR ECONOMIC RUIN.") AT SAME TIME I INFORMED WHITFIELD THAT I WOULD OF COURSE BE REPORTING TEXT OF ARTICLE TO DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS QUERYING IT FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE ON NORTHEAST BANKING TRUST. WHITFIELD EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH RESPONSE AND WHILE SAYING THAT HE WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE OF ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE DEVELOPED, HE ALSO ASKED THAT I INFORM DEPARTMENT THAT HIS PARTY BOTH IN PLATFORM AND MORE RECENTLY IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY HAD STATED"...THAT WE SHOULD HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SINCE OUR ECONOMY IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH THAT COUNTRY AND SINCE OUR TERRITORIAL SOVERIGNTY DEPENDS ON AMERICA'S DISPOSITION TOWARDS US."

4. EMBASSY ACCEPTS WHITFIELD'S ASSERTION THAT HE AND FNM CONSIDER MATTER AS CLOSED AND UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED
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WE INTEND TO IGNORE ARTICLE UNLESS WE ARE SPECIFICALLY QUERIED IN WHICH CASE WE WILL REPEAT LINE GIVEN TO WHITFIELD) AT SAME TIME WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT COULD OBTAIN ON NORTHEAST BANKING TRUST.

5. ASKED WHETHER HE ATTENDED LAST NIGHT'S "MASS RALLY" WHITFIELD HAD NOT BUT RATHER HAD LISTENED TO IT BY RADIO FROM HIS CHAMBERS. OBVIOUSLY ELATED WITH PLP'S FAILURE, WHITFIELD ALLOWED AS HOW RALLY HAD NOT BEEN SURPRISE TO HIM. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS RELIABLY INFORMED THAT MANY PLP STALWARTS WERE SURPRISED AND INDEED BITTER AND OPINED THAT THERE WERE MORE SURPRISES IN STORE FOR THEM.
TAYLOR

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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